THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

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'THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY,' is the motto of The Progressive Farmer, and upon this platform it shall rise or fall. Serving no master, ruled by no faction, circumscribed by no selfish or narrow policy, its aim will be to foster and promote the best interests of the whole people of the State. It will be true to the instincts, traditions and history of the Anglo-Saxon race. On all matters relating specially to the great interests it represents, it will speak with no uncertain voice, but will fearlessly the right defend and impartially the wrong condemn."—From Col. Polk's Salutatory, Feb. 10, 1886

Be sure to give both old and new addresses in ordering change of postoffice.

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER is the Official Organ of the North Carolina Farmers' State Alliance.

When sending your renewal, be sure to give exactly the name on label and postoffice to which the copy of paper you receive is sent.

DISCONTINUANCES—Responsible subscribers will continue to receive this journal until the publishers are notified by letter to discontinue, when all arrearages must be paid. If you do not wish the journal continued for another year after your subscription has expired, you should then notify us to discontinue it.

RENEWALS—The date opposite your name on your paper, or wrapper, shows to what time your subscription is paid. Thus 1 Jan. '00, shows that payment has been received up to Jan. 1, 1900; 1 Jan. '01, to Jan. 1, 1901, and so on. Two weeks are required after money is received before date, which answers for a receipt, can be changed. If not properly changed within two weeks after money is sent notify us.

We invite correspondence, news items, suggestions and criticisms on the subjects of agriculture, poultry raising, stock breeding, dairying, horticulture and garding; woman's work, literature, or any subject of interest to our lady readers, young people, or the family generally; public matters, current events, political questions and principles, etc.,—in short, any subject discussed in an all-round farm and family newspaper. Communications should be free from personalities and party abuse.

Before the end of this year North Carolina should have at least 150 rural free delivery routes instead of 11 as at present; and 500 rural school libraries instead of 104 as at present.
"First come, first served."
Tell your neighbor.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Progressive Farmer, emulating the known character of its founder, belongs to the people, is the paper of the people, run by the people and for the good of the people. While Col. Polk was alive, this was eminently so. While he lived he simply directed the affairs of the paper for the people—was not so much its owner as he was their director. When Col. Polk was taken from it, he left your humble servant as his Business Manager, but the title "owner," the mantle of the founder, rested upon his devoted widow. After resting on the shoulders of husband over six years, then on his widow for nine years, the mantle has now in the sixteenth year of its existence—this mantle sacred and pure—has fallen upon the shoulders of the writer. I am called owner; I am not. The paper, as its founder intended, is not my paper: it is yours; it is the people's. And while I hold the directorate, ever striving myself to soar higher and with Divine help to get better and help those around, I desire to say that however good your business, however true and honest and persevering he may be, your director can't make the most success nor accomplish best results without the sympathy, kind words and helping hand of those for whom he labors. This I bespeak of you, one and all, and I pledge to you all the time, money and labor placed at my command shall be returned to you multiplied many fold. In The Progressive Farmer you now have the best agricultural and all-round weekly in the South. I do not hesitate to say that it would be difficult to find an available man who would prepare the editorial or other departments of the paper with more skill, taste and sound judgment and make your paper, or any other paper, more interesting and instructive than does C. H. Poe, our present most efficient editor. His services, with the present editorial and business policy, with minor changes only for improvements, will be continued. Now, friends, we wish you to quiet your nerves, pay up your subscriptions promptly and induce your neighbor to take The Progressive Farmer. And may you all live long and prosper.

J. W. DENMARK.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Does the following paragraph suggest an idea to any young man or young lady reader of The Progressive Farmer? We quote from the Roanoke-Chowan Times: "The action of the young people of Jackson in organizing a literary club should be followed by every town in the county. We have been watching the progress of this club for some time with increasing interest. The work is most commendable."

We hope that all Progressive Farmer readers that live within reach of any of the Farmers' Institutes to be held this month at several points in Western North Carolina will endeavor to attend. These Institutes do much to deepen interest in scientific agriculture and to encourage better methods of farming. In a sense they carry the Agricultural College and Experiment Station right to the farmers' doors. Go out and go prepared to ask information upon subjects you wish discussed.

We commend to all our brethren of the press the following words of wisdom from the last issue of the Kinston Free Press: "The Free Press is devoting but little attention to politics now. We think there is a time for all things, and that now is a good time to leave off politics for awhile and devote all the attention possible to the educational, agricultural and industrial improvement of the State." We believe both the papers and the people would be greatly benefited if all the editors would follow Bro. Herbert's example.

Mr. C. H. Johnson sends the following injury: "Please let me know where I can get a corn shredder, and what will be the cost." Our friend should read the advertisements in The Progressive Farmer. He should have learned from them some time ago that corn shredders are manufactured by the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company, of which Mr. R. B. Fox, Charlotte, N. C., is general agent. Mr. Fox will supply full information as to sizes, prices, etc. Mention The Progressive Farmer when you write him.

Within the last few months we have had the pleasure of printing a number of excellent articles from the worthy young entomologist of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Mr. Franklin Sherman, Jr. Our readers will be interested in the exhanstive article from his pen, "Injurious Insects," published in the June Bulletin, just issued. The article is worth filing away. If you do not get the Bulletin, drop a postal to Commissioner S. L. Patterson, Raleigh, and ask that it be sent you regularly, beginning with the June issue.

The action of ex-Treasurer Worth in turning over all his property, acquired by a life of faithful work, to repay the State the amount stolen by Maj. Martin, has been heartily commended throughout the State. A newspaper correspondent thus refers to the noble act: "The good old Quaker did not make over his property to his wife, or any one else, to escape payment, and he has not hunted up any technicalities or legal quibbles to delay settlement. He is worth the amount and will repay the stealings of his subordinate, if it bankrupts and beggars him. Aye, 'Father Worth' is an honest man. Let the fact be recorded" His friends hope that he will recover from the bonding company. If it seeks to escape payment upon a technicality, it deserves to be boycotted.

The benefits of rural free delivery of mails, inducing people to read more papers and write more letters, thus bringing them in closer touch with their friends and with the business world, are well illustrated by the results wrought out by the three Raleigh routes established last August. Personal interviews with the three carriers a few days ago elicited the following facts: The carrier on Route No. 1 has served only five months, but reports that in this period the number of newspapers read has increased 100 per cent. The carries on Route No. 2 says that when rural free delivery was established only 24 farmers along his route took weekly papers; now 59 weeklies are read. Then only 14 dailies were taken; now 39 farmers have subscribed for dailies. On Route No. 3 there has been an increase of 100 per cent in number of weeklies subscribed for, while 36 farmers are now taking dailies where before only one daily was read.

SAVE YOUR FORESTS—RAISE YOUR PORK.

There are two points in the letter of our Washington correspondent this week which deserve special attention.

The first is in regard to the losses suffered by the West as a result of forest destruction—a problem to which the people of North Carolina have perhaps given less attention than to any other of similar character and importance. We can now think of no man in the State, save Prof. J. A. Holmes, who has ever made any noteworthy efforts to interest the people in the matter. Yet it is true that here in North Carolina we are paying the penalty for forest destruction no less certainly than are the people of the West. This year we have done so, just as they have. In the destruction wrought by the great May freshets of this year, we paid a part of our penalty, while almost unprecedented drouth has caused many Western farmers to repent of their section's folly. Inconsistent does it appear that we are in one breath attributing the increased evils of both floods and drouths to our cause—forest destruction? Perhaps it seems so, but when you give the matter a little thought you find it perfectly consistent. The case is very clearly stated in a recent issue of the Southern Farm Magazine as follows:

"Many streams that were once perennial now dry up in the summer months. This is not due to the decrease in rainfall, but the open country hastens evaporation and promotes the rapid passing off of the water before the reservoirs beneath the surface are supplied. When rain falls on a surface covered with forest trees it gently percolates the earth, being retarded in its flow by the leaves and other trash common to a forest-covered surface, and thus the terrestrial water has more time to penetrate the earth. The shade of the forest also prevents the sun from shining upon the surface, and so the process of evaporation is greatly retarded. On an open surface where the rain falls the hot earth engenders a most rapid evaporation, and the water, unless the rainfall is very copious, scarcely penetrates the earth at all. All this is philosophically true. If the whole surface should be cleared it would be a difficult matter in seasons of great precipitation to prevent the most destructive overflows. Checked by no impediments, the water in such a case rushes down the slopes with great rapidity into the basins of the streams, swelling them beyond their original limits. These two results, diametrically opposed to each other, come from deforestation."

Just after the May freshet of this year to which we have already alluded, the Charlotte Observer interviewed Mr. E. W. Myers, of the United States Geological Survey with regard to the matter. From its report we quote:

"The hurtful effects of the velocity of the water was not due to the amount of rain that fell, for the weather bureau reports indicate that much heavier rains have fallen in the past and the volume of water was carried off without injurious consequence. The whole secret of the bad effect and extent of this flood lies in the deforestration in the western part of the State. Along the Linville river and in all parts of western Carolina the country is being stripped of trees, and this followed by the forest fires which sweep away all vegetation or undergrowth. When the rains fall on such land there is nothing to retard the current of the water. With great force it strikes the river; the velocity of the Catawba is increased by the mad violence of the water and the curent develops a wonderful and dangerous power. Every man who lives by the river, said Mr. Myers, says, without hesitation, that the cutting away of the timber is entirely responsible for the serious flood."

It was just after this May freshet, too, that Prof. Holmes gave out his warning: "In half a century or less the rains will literally sweep away the soil over vast areas. The rainfall will be as great as at present, with but little forest to receive and gradually distribute it."

In this connection we are reminded that if you were to talk with your neighbors about a "crop of trees," you would probably be laughed at. Yet every farmer ought to regard his forest as a crop no less than his corn or cotton. The trees are saleable, and are products of the soil; the wise farmer will therefore expect a profit from his forest crop, as well as from others, even if it is longer in reaching maturity. Give it attention, sell without delay the portions ready for market, and try to get from it the same percentage of profits you get from other crops.

The other matter of which we set out to speak is that of raising meat this year, enough for your own use, and some to sell, if you can do so—and is there any reason why you cannot? The failure of the corn crop in the West will certainly mean higher prices for first class meats, just as Secretary Wilson has predicted. The farmer who has his smoke-house in Illinois next spring will pay dear for his whistle. Fore warned is forearmed.

STATE ALLIANCE MEETING.

The annual meeting of the North Carolina Farmers' Alliance will be held in Hillsboro next week, beginning Tuesday, 13th.

We hope that every delegate will be on hand. Much work of importance is to be transacted.

TWO VALUABLE ADDRESSES.

Copies of two valuable addresses now published in pamphlet form have just been received by The Progressive Farmer.

The first is Judge Walter Clark's "How Can Interest be Aroused in the Study of North Carolina History?" The larger part of this address we have already published. We are glad to note its appearance in pamphlet form, for its suggestions ought to be preserved and continually re-iterated until the good work it outlines shall have been accomplished.

Mr. Marshall DeLaneey Haywood's sketch of Col. Edward Buncombe was read before the annual meeting of the North Carolina Society of the Cincinnati at Hillsboro, July 4. It is an excellent piece of work, and causes us to hope that Mr. Haywood will soon bring out his promised sketch of Gov. Tryon. A brief outline of the career of Col. Buncombe is given by the Charlotte Observer as follows: "Born on the island of St. Kitts, and coming to North Carolina to settle on property in Tyrrell county, now Washington, inherited from an uncle, Col. Buncombe built Buncombe Hall, far famed in its day for its hospitality, out of bricks imported from England, and there he lived, taking a prominent part in the political movements that brought on the Revolution and gladly fighting its battles when it had begun. He died in Philadelphia from a wound received at the battle of Germantown."

Everyone has heard the expression, "talking for buncombe," and as this phrase is intimately connected with that North Carolina county named in honor of the subject of his sketch, Mr. Haywood takes occasion to explain how it originated. We do not now recall another word of North Carolina origin that has found its way into the standard dictionaries, and as the incident which gave rise to this one is quite interesting, we quote from from Mr. Haywood's account as follows:

"The word 'buncombe'—which dictionaries give as signifying a bombastic utterance, usually employed in windy harangues to gain popular favor—had its origin through the following circumstances: In the Congress of the United States, between the years 1817 and 1823, the mountain district of North Carolina was represented by the Honorable Felix Walker, many of whose constituents were denizens of the now famous county of Buncombe. One day, as Mr. Walker sat pondering over his past political career, he remembered that during that session he had made very few speeches—and this, by the way, was almost as rare a fault with Congressmen in those days as it is now. So he decided to speak; he did speak; he spoke at considerable length; and he didn't have anything particular to say, but he kept on talking, nevertheless. And when, at last, patience had ceased to be a virtue, and some of his long-suffering colleagues were beginning to leave the hall, he told the more polite members who remained that they might go, too, if they wished, for he intended to have his remarks published and sent to the home people, as the speech was not intended for the House, but only for Buncombe!"

Example is more forcible than precept. People look at my six days in the week to find what I mean on the seventh.—Cecil.

"NORTH CAROLINA DAY" IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

One movement which will aid in the solution of Judge Clark's problem, "How shall we interest our people in the study of North Carolina history?" is already well on foot. We refer to the law passed by the last Legislature directing "that the 12th day of October in each and every year be set apart as 'North Carolina Day,' to be devoted by appropriate exercises in the public schools of the State to the consideration of some topic or topics of our State history to be selected by the Superintendent of Public Instruction." The Progressive Farmer is read by a large number of teachers in all parts of North Carolina, and we feel sure that no appeal is needed to induce them to give their active support to this praiseworthy plan. Our contemporary, the Chatham Record, ably sets forth the arguments in its favor in the following editorial:

"This is an excellent idea and all private as well as public schools should earnestly strive to carry it into effect. Let every school, both public and private, appropriately celebrate this 'North Carolina Day,' as suggested by our lawmakers, and thus teach the children of North Carolina a true history of their State. No State has greater cause to be proud of her history than North Carolina, and yet scarcely any State's history is so little known as hers. Let us stimulate the children of this generation, and each succeeding generation, to strive more earnestly in learning the history of their good old State.

"Nearly every school child—even in North Carolina—knows more of the Revolutionary history of Massachusetts, than of North Carolina, simply because greater efforts are made to teach and perpetuate it. And yet the citizens of North Carolina have greater cause to be proud of her Revolutionary history than the citizens of Massachusetts have of their State. The Boston "tea party" is known by thousands who never heard of the bolder act of the men of the Cape Fear, who eight years previous in broad daylight successfully resisted the execution of the Stamp Act. The battle of Lexington is immortalized in song and story, and has attracted far more attention than the battle of Alamance, fought four years prior. Few persons, outside of North Carolina, know that, nerly five months before the Declaration of Independence was signed, North Carolinians won at the battle of Moore's Creek the most complete victory of the Revolutionary war. And still fewer that on the 12th of April, 1776, the provincial congress at Halifax was the first to instruct its delegates to vote for American Independence.

"But we need not cite other instances to prove North Carolina's proud history and the need of its study. It is too plain for argument."

The Thinkers.

LEARNING TO THINK.

We had the great pleasure a few weeks ago of listening to a conversation between a college professor who has had considerable acquaintance with farmers, and an Institute worker, who is himself a farmer, and has given some part of his time, for several years, to platform work at Granges and Farmers' Institutes. The professor was inclined to doubt the usefulness of Institute work, and claimed that the farmers, as a class, were neither reading, observing nor thinking men, and could not be aroused to either observe or think. The farmer lecturer maintained the affirmative side of the question, declared that farmers were "learning to think," and observe, "and," said he, "it is Grange and Institute work, backed up by an intelligent agricultural press, that has lifted the farmers out of the ruts in which they formerly crawled, until now they are, as a whole, a shrewd, reading, thinking, observing class of men." "The farmer has got to be an observer, reader and thinker if he would succeed in these progressive days," he continued, "with railways, telegraphs, telephones, rural mail delivery, improved farm machinery and the thousands of advantages that our grandfathers of stage-coach days never dreamed of, the farmer is compelled to be a reader and thinker; he simply can't help himself." After joining in the conversation with some comments upon the steady advance in agricultural knowledge and the good work the agricultural colleges were doing, we asked the farmer-lecturer if he was a college educated man. "Oh, no," said he with a smile and shake of the head. "I had no such good luck." "In fact," he continued, "I had less schooling than my boy of fifteen has already got." "How did you become so well informed?" we asked him. "By reading, observing and thinking," he replied, not at all averse to giving the professor a bit of a dig, and in the remaining hour of our railway journey we attempted to draw him out upon the subject of his habits of reading and thinking, and tried to learn his method.

In answer to our questions he told us he was brought up on a farm and had only a few weeks' schooling each winter after he was twelve years old, was not much of a reader and nothing of a thinker until after he was 22 years old. It was falling in love with a school teacher considerably older than himself that first set him to thinking, and he soon after began to read books and papers that would give him instruction in farm work and ways, and gradually developed a taste for books in general literature, "and," said he, "it is that taste for reading that has been my salvation. I don't pretend to be a 'know-it-all,' there are thousands of books I wish I could get time to read, but a busy man must forego many of the things he would like to enjoy, and that is not altogether a disadvantage, because, if he is wise he will pick and choose; if he has but little time for reading he will naturally select that which is the very best, that which will help him most."

There was much in his confidential talk that we wish we could transcribe to our readers, but one point, which he especially emphasized, is all we can now give space to. This was the necessity of "learning" to read and think. The great majority of people, and farmers no more than others, rush through their reading as though quantity was what was most desirable, whereas one article in a paper or chapter in a book carefully read and fully understood, was worth infinitely more than a hundred articles galloped over and hardly an impression of their purpose remaining. "Read slowly and surely, would be my advice," he said. "If the meaning of a paragraph isn't clear at the first reading, don't go on to the next paragraph; go back and read it over, and read it a third time, if necessary. In other words, clear up each thought as you go along, that is the secret of intelligent reading; and that, I believe, is the secret of learning to think—to learn to understand the printed thoughts of others is the best way to learn to think."

That certainly is suggestive, and we are pleased to be able to present it to our readers with the hope that it may be helpful and encouraging to them, as it has been helpful and encouraging to him. The man whose words we have quoted is unusually well informed, a fluent speaker, a helpful and instructive lecturer, and he has reached that enviable position by simply learning to read understandingly, by being "slow and sure," by mastering each thought before going on to the next one. It seems to us that there is a lot of helpfulness in just that single idea.—Practical Farmer.

THE AGE OF CASH.

If you can possibly grasp it, think of a billion dollars. In former ages of the world, it was a sum far beyond human needs or comprehension. If you should begin to count it, you would be a very aged person before you reached the total.

Then take another grasp and try to appreciate what three and a third billion dollars means. Mentally that is quite out of the question, of course but it is the cold, written record of the bank clearances of the United States not only for one week, but, indeed, for several weeks successively during the present year.

The rich people of history are, in comparison with those of the present about as poor as was Milton when he sold Paradise Lost for something like twenty-five dollars. It is the belief of the plutocrats that nobody amounts to anything in New York until he can use all his fingers in counting his millions. And this brings the situation to the interesting point that of the three and a third billions of bank clearances in the whole country two and a quarter billions were in New York.

To-day Wall Street has more to do with the rule of the world than has any monarch or minister.—Saturday Evening Post.